

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claim 21 is amended as shown herein to delete the preferred definition of A from that claim. This definition has been added as new claim 31. Support for new claim 31 may be found in original claim 21 and in the specification at page 6. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 1-30 are subject to restriction between six Groups. Each of the six Groups are drawn to dosage forms comprising a fill material in capsule shells, wherein the fill material comprises a selective COX-2 inhibitor drug and a pharmaceutically acceptable sulfite compound; the Groups differ in the definition of the COX-2 drug described by formula (I) in claim 21 (specifically, in the definition of A).

<u>Group</u>	<u>definition of A</u>
I (claims 1-30)	pyrazolyl
II (claims 1-22 and 25-30) ¹	furanyl
III (claims 1-22 and 25-30) ¹	pyridinyl
IV (claims 1-22 and 25-30) ¹	isoxazolyl
V (claims 1-22 and 25-30) ¹	cyclopentenonyl
VI ² (claims 1-22 and 25-30) ¹	pyridazinonyl

Applicants respectfully submit that the above Groups exclude subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention, and thus traverse the restriction requirement. Claim 1 is directed to a pharmaceutical dosage form comprising a fill material sealed in capsule shells wherein the fill material comprises, *inter alia*, a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory drug of low water solubility. Claim 1 is not limited to COX-2 inhibitors having a structure of formula (I) wherein A is a heterocyclyl group selected from pyrazolyl, furanonyl, isoxazolyl, pyridinyl, cyclopentenonyl and pyridazinonyl groups. Thus, Applicants propose that at least one other Group should be added:

Group VII, drawn to dosage forms comprising a fill material in capsule shells, wherein the fill material comprises a selective COX-2 inhibitor drug and a pharmaceutically

¹ There appears to be typographical errors in the descriptions of Groups II-VI in the instant Office action. Each of these Groups is described as "Claims 1-22 and 25-30, drawn to Claims 1-30, drawn to dosage forms..." It appears that the phrase "drawn to Claims 1-30" was inadvertently included. If this is incorrect, Applicants respectfully request clarification from the Office.

² This Group is incorrectly identified as Group IV in the Office action on page 3.

acceptable sulfite compound, wherein the COX-2 inhibitor is not a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 21 where A is pyrazolyl, furanyl, pyridinyl, isoxazolyl, cyclopentenoyl, or pyridazinonyl.

Claims 1-21 and 25-31 read on this group.

Subject to the foregoing traversal, Applicants elect Group I. In addition, Applicants elect the compound celecoxib as the compound of formula (I) in claim 21. Claims 1-30 read on the elected Group and the elected species.

In response to the requirement for election of additional species, Applicants elect the following:

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| (a) | sulfite compounds: | sodium metabisulfite |
| (b) | additional excipient classes: | free radical-scavenging antioxidant |
| (c) | surfactants: | polysorbate 80 |
| (d) | solvent: | polyethylene glycol |
| (e) | cosolvent: | water |
| (f) | capsule shell type: | soft gelatin capsule shells |
| (g) | fill material form: | liquid |

Applicants submit that the present invention is now in condition for allowance. Early allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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